

Introduced by Senator AlquistFebruary 10, 2005

An act to add Chapter 17 (commencing with Section 43100) to Part 24 of the Education Code, relating to school finance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 219, as introduced, Alquist. School finance.

Existing law provides for a system of funding for the public schools.

This bill would establish the California Commission on Restructuring School Finance for Kindergarten and Grades 1 to 12, inclusive, and would require the commission to, among other things, propose simple, flexible, and workable funding programs that enable schools to meet the special needs of each individual pupil. The bill would require the commission to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education—Kindergarten through University, the Governor, and the Legislature.

The bill would require the Legislative Analyst to conduct a study regarding public school funding, as described.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) California public schools are not adequately funded in
- 4 order to provide a high-quality educational program, and to
- 5 compete with pupils in other states and in other nations.

(b) Schools are not provided with a fair and equal distribution of funding, and in some instances, schools in neighboring districts have different funding levels of thousands of dollars per classroom.

(c) Local communities have lost a linkage between school policy and responsibility for financing local schools.

SEC. 2. Chapter 17 (commencing with Section 43100) is added to Part 24 of the Education Code, to read:

CHAPTER 17. CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON RESTRUCTURING
SCHOOL FINANCE FOR KINDERGARTEN AND GRADES 1 TO 12,
INCLUSIVE

43100. (a) There is hereby established the California Commission on Restructuring School Finance for Kindergarten and Grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

(b) The commission established pursuant to this chapter shall do all of the following:

(1) Propose simple, flexible, and workable funding programs that enable schools to meet the special needs of each individual pupil.

(2) Reinforce the concept of a free public education.

(3) Ensure equity, simplicity, and adequacy of funding.

(4) Guarantee that all pupils in the public school system receive a fair and equitable public education.

(c) The commission established pursuant to this chapter shall report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education—Kindergarten through University, the Governor, and the Legislature within 18 months of commencing operations.

43101. (a) Except as provided in paragraph (9), the Governor shall appoint the following voting members to the commission established pursuant to this chapter:

(1) One member, who shall serve as the chair of the commission, who is knowledgeable in the area of school finance.

(2) One representative of a general labor organization who does not directly represent education employees.

(3) One representative of a labor organization who represents classified education employees.

1 (4) Two representatives of one or more teacher labor
2 organizations. Only one of these members may represent or be
3 affiliated with the largest teacher organization in the state.

4 (5) One representative of an organization that represents
5 school administrative personnel.

6 (6) Two representatives of the business community, at least
7 one of whom shall have recent experience with the high
8 technology industry.

9 (7) One representative of a taxpayer group that has an interest
10 in public school finance issues.

11 (8) One school board member.

12 (9) Five members of the general public. Of these five members
13 of the general public, the Senate Committee on Rules shall
14 appoint one member, the Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint
15 one member, and the remaining three members shall be
16 appointed by the Governor.

17 (b) The following persons shall serve as ex officio nonvoting
18 members of the commission established pursuant to this chapter:

19 (1) The Director of Finance.

20 (2) The Superintendent of Public Instruction.

21 (3) The Secretary for Education.

22 (4) The Legislative Analyst.

23 (5) A representative of the State Board of Education.

24 (c) Members of the commission shall not receive
25 compensation or reimbursement for expenses for service on the
26 commission.

27 43102. The Secretary for Education shall provide staff for the
28 commission established pursuant to this chapter.

29 43103. (a) The commission established pursuant to this
30 chapter shall begin operations on March 1, 2006.

31 (b) The commission established pursuant to this chapter shall
32 terminate all operations 24 months after it has begun operations
33 or within 30 days of delivering its final report and
34 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature, whichever
35 event is earlier.

36 43104. The funding of the commission for its establishment
37 and operation pursuant to this chapter shall be subject to an
38 appropriation for this purpose in the annual Budget Act.

39 SEC. 3. By no later than January 1, 2007, the Legislative
40 Analyst shall conduct a study and report to the Joint Committee

- 1 to Develop a Master Plan for Education—Kindergarten through
2 University, the Governor, the Legislature, and the commission
3 established pursuant to Chapter 17 (commencing with Section
4 43100) of Part 24 of the Education Code regarding public school
5 funding that shall, at a minimum, do all of the following:
- 6 (a) Compare the level of funding received by public schools in
7 the state to that received by public schools in other states. This
8 comparison shall include a disaggregation of school facilities
9 funding to the extent that data is available. The study of
10 comparative state education spending shall undertake to utilize
11 existing comparisons of education spending to the extent that it is
12 appropriate and feasible to do so.
- 13 (b) Examine and recommend alternative local revenue sources
14 for public school funding.